

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4589
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 01925

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, GR, ECIN
SUBJ: GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' MEETING WITH EC
COMMISSION PRESIDENT DURING VISIT TO BRUSSELS JANUARY 26-27

REF: BRUSSELS 19128

1. SUMMARY: IN BRUSSELS JANUARY 26-27, GREEK PRIME
MINISTER CARAMANLIS HELD TALKS WITH EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT
JENKINS AND OTHER COMMISSIONERS TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF
GREECE'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY.
COMMISSION AND GREEK MISSION OFFICIALS DESCRIBED TALKS AS
"ENCOURAGING", WITH COMMISSION PROMISING TO DO WHAT IT
CAN TO SPEED UP THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT END OF CARAMANLIS' MEETING WITH EC COMMISSION
PRESIDENT JENKINS AND THE COMMISSION, THE TWO SIDES
ISSUED JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH STATES IN PART THAT THE
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PRIME MINISTER HELD WIDE RANGING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
COMMISSION ON THE CURRENT GREEK/EC ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS.
THE COMMUNIQUE POINTS OUT THAT THE COMMISSION, IN AN
EFFORT TO HELP SPEED UP THE NEGOTIATIONS, HAS SUBMITTED
TO THE EC COUNCIL AN INITIAL PROPOSAL ON CUSTOMS AND
INDUSTRIAL UNION WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED DURING THE NEXT
FEW WEEKS BY THREE OTHER PROPOSALS RELATING TO OTHER

MAJOR NEGOTIATING SECTORS. COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDES WITH STATEMENT BY CARAMANLIS TO THE EFFECT THAT GREECE WISHES TO BECOME MEMBER OF "A DYNAMIC AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY ABLE TO ACHIEVE THE IDEALS WHICH INSPIRED ITS FOUNDERS AND WILL FULFILL THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PEOPLES."

3. GREEK MISSION AND COMMISSION OFFICIALS DESCRIBED JENKINS-CARAMANLIS TALKS AS HAVING GONE VERY WELL. (IN PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER MEETING WITH THE COMMISSION, CARAMANLIS SAID HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME OF HIS DISCUSSIONS.) COMMISSION SOURCE NOTED THAT CARAMANLIS HAD NOT RAISED ANY POINTS OF ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE BUT MADE STRONG PITCH FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS. SOURCE SAID THE COMMISSION SHARED CARAMANLIS' VIEW THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOW MOVE FORWARD, BUT DID NOT GIVE ANY ASSURANCES REGARDING A POSSIBLE TIMETABLE (CARAMANLIS REPEATED TO COMMISSION HIS OFT-STATED VIEW THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CONCLUDED BY END OF THIS YEAR). COMMISSION MADE CLEAR IT DID NOT FAVOR LINKING THE GREEK ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER APPLICANT COUNTRIES PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. GREEK MISSION SOURCE ADDED THAT DURING THE DISCUSSIONS COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT NATALI SAID THE COMMISSION WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THAT THE AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS OF THE GREEK NEGOTIATIONS BE DEPENDENT UPON THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF REFORMS IN THE COMMUNITY'S MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. NATALI
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FURTHER OBSERVED TO CARAMANLIS THAT THE COMMISSION WILL SUBMIT TO THE COUNCIL IN MARCH A PAPER ON THE IMPACT OF ENLARGEMENT ON MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. THE PAPER WILL, HOWEVER, ONLY SERVE AS A BASIS FOR REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AND NOT AS A NEGOTIATING PROPOSAL AS REGARDS GREECE, NATALI REPORTEDLY NOTED.

4. COMMISSION OFFICIAL NOTED THAT THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW ENTERING THE ACTIVE PHASE WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSAL ON CUSTOMS UNION TO THE COUNCIL. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE COUNCIL WILL APPROVE THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL AT ITS FEBRUARY 7 MEETING, ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN AROUND FEBRUARY 10. SOURCES SAID THAT ADDITIONAL COMMISSION PROPOSALS, MENTIONED INDIRECTLY IN THE COMMUNIQUE, WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL BEFORE EASTER. THESE WILL COVER FREEDOM OF CAPITAL MOVEMENTS, EXTERNAL RELATIONS (COMMUNITY OBLIGATIONS WHICH GREECE MUST ASSUME TOWARD THE OUTSIDE WORLD--I.E., PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, COMMERCIAL POLICY AND GSP) AND MEMBERSHIP IN EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY. (COMMISSION SOURCE OBSERVED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON STEEL WILL REPRESENT THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT MAJOR ADAPTATION

FOR THE GREEKS BECAUSE THERE IS NO PRIOR EC-GREECE AGREE-
MENT IN THIS SECTOR.) SOURCE FURTHER SAID THAT THE
COMMISSION EXPECTS TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS ON THE AGRICULTURAL
SECTOR AND GREEK CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY BUDGET
AFTER EASTER. COMMISSION OFFICIAL NOTED THAT QUESTION OF
TRANSITIONAL PERIOD HAS SO FAR NOT BEEN ADDRESSED BY THE
COMMUNITY, EVEN THOUGH THE GREEKS HAVE PROPOSED IT BE
FIVE YEARS. COMMISSION ON OTHER HAND, ACCORDING TO SOURCE,
FEELS THIS TIME IS TOO SHORT IN SOME INDIVIDUAL SECTORS,
BUT HAS NOT REACHED ANY DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS. COMMISSION
OFFICIAL MENTIONED THAT THERE ARE TWO IDEAS CURRENTLY
CIRCULATING IN THE COMMISSION AS REGARDS TRANSITION:

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USEEC

(1) A FLEXIBLE TWO-STAGE TRANSITION PERIOD BROKEN DOWN
BY SECTOR; OR (2) ONE FIXED PERIOD OF DEFINED DURATION.

5. ALTHOUGH COMMISSION SOURCE SAW THE SUBSTANTIVE PHASE
OF THE NEGOTIATIONS MOVING ALONG THIS YEAR, HE DID NOT
SHARE CARAMANLIS' STATED OPTIMISM AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE
FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH JENKINS THAT "AGREEMENT ON ALL
OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS CAN BE REACHED BY THE END OF 1978".
(NOR DID GERMAN PERMDEL OFFICIAL WITH WHOM MISSION SPOKE
JANUARY 30. GERMAN OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT FRG WILL PRESS
EC PARTNERS TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS IN SECOND HALF OF
1978--I.E., DURING GERMAN EC PRESIDENCY--BUT THAT

REALISTICALLY IT APPEARED UNLIKELY TALKS CAN CONCLUDE BEFORE MID-1979.) OFFICIAL, QUOTING COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS' REMARKS TO THE PRESS JANUARY 27, PREFERRED TO CHARACTERIZE THE SITUATION AS ONE IN WHICH THE COMMUNITY "WILL HAVE BROKEN THE BACK OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE END OF THE YEAR". COMMISSION OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED, HOW-CONFIDENTIAL

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EVER, THAT DESPITE CONTINUING GREEK EFFORTS, THE COMMUNITY HAS NOT AGREED TO ANY SPECIFIC NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE.

6. COMMENT: WHILE COMMUNITY OFFICIALS HERE SEEM TO AGREE THAT CARAMANLIS HAD A SUCCESSFUL BRUSSELS VISIT, THEY ALSO POINT OUT THAT COMMISSION AND COUNCIL ARE PRESENTLY PROCEEDING ALONG LINES DECIDED ON BEFORE COMMUNITY LEARNED OF CARAMANLIS' PLANS FOR HIS WEST EUROPEAN TOUR. WORKING-LEVEL COMMISSION SOURCE WITH WHOM WE DISCUSSED VISIT ATTRIBUTED RENEWED IMPETUS IN ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE TO FACT THAT EC HAS RECENTLY BEGUN TO RECEIVE FROM THE GREEKS A MORE STEADY FLOW OF DATA REQUESTED BY THE COMMISSION AS IT PREPARES POSITIONS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL. ON OTHER HAND, COMMISSIONER NATALI TOLD AMBASSADOR JANUARY 28 THAT HE HAD TOLD CARAMANLIS PRECEDING DAY THAT COMMUNITY IS STILL INHIBITED IN NEGOTIATIONS BY INADEQUATE GREEK RESPONSE TO COMMISSION REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, A POINT ALSO MADE TO PAPALIGOURAS LAST DECEMBER (REFTEL).

7. THE OTHER POINT WE WOULD NOTE IS THAT DESPITE COMMISSION PROMISES TO DO ITS PART TO SPEED NEGOTIATIONS AND TO SEE THAT THE GREEK ACCESSION TALKS ARE NOT LINKED TO THOSE INVOLVING PORTUGAL AND SPAIN, IT IS THE EC COUNCIL--I.E., THE EC MEMBER STATES--WHICH WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISIONS ON GREEK ACCESSION. AT LEAST SOME MEMBER STATES CONTINUE TO SEE THE THREE SETS OF ACCESSION TALKS, NOT PERHAPS AS A SINGLE OVERALL PACKAGE NEGOTIATION, BUT AS SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH, NONE-THELESS, DO HAVE IMPLICATIONS EACH FOR THE OTHERS.
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